

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 18 are amended, claim 34 is canceled, and new claims 36-38 are added. Reconsideration and allowance in view of this Amendment is respectfully solicited.

The amendment to claim 1 is supported at least by original claim 4 and paragraph 36 of the originally filed specification. Claims 3 and 4 are amended to clarify the claims and provide proper antecedent basis. The amendment to claim 18 is supported at least by originally filed claim 34. New claim 36 is supported at least by original claims 1 and 2 and paragraphs 49 and 52 of the originally filed specification. New claim 37 is supported at least by FIGS. 1-3, 6-13, and 16-18 of the originally filed application. New claim 38 is supported by original claim 14.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-17 and indication that claims 20-23, 27-30, 32, and 34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant notes that the cover sheet of the October 4, 2004 Office Action accurately indicates that claim 2 is allowed but page 2 indicates that claim 2 is rejected. In a teleconference on October 6, 2004, Examiner Watts confirmed that page 2 contains a typographical error and that claim 2 was allowed.

Applicant has amended allowed claim 1 to further distinguish it from the cited prior art. Applicant has rewritten allowed dependent claims 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 14 in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of their base independent claim 1. Applicant has moved some of the recitations of original dependent claim 14 into a further dependent claim 38. New claims 36 and 37 incorporate all of the subject matter of allowed claim 1 and further distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art. Applicant submits that amended claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 36 are allowable, as are their respective dependent claims, which are allowable at least because they depend from allowable independent claims.

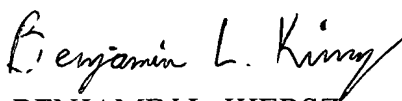
Claims 18, 24, 33, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Leland (U.S. Pat. No. 925,112). Claims 19, 26, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Leland in view of Owens et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,266,887). Claims 19 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Leland in view of Huang (U.S. Pat. No. 5,074,002). Applicant traverses the rejection of amended claim 18. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicant has incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 34 into claim 18. Applicant submits that none of the cited references alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of recitations in amended claim 18. Applicant therefore

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respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18 along with its dependent claims 19-33 and 35, which are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claim 18.

Applicant submits that pending claims 1-33 and 35-38 are in condition for allowance.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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